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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Division

Telephone - REpublic 7 - 4142,
Extension - 2176.

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SEMI-MONTHLY HONEY REPORT - VOL. XXIX - NO. 9

SUMMARY

Honey flows in progress during this period in southern States were variable, but generally light. In Florida the white tupelo flow in northern swamp areas ended with reports of very light yields. Palmetto and gallberry were yielding in southern and central areas with the outcome still uncertain. No flows of consequence were on in south Georgia with conditions pointing towards a very light crop. In Mississippi clovers were beginning to yield, but colonies have not yet recovered from the set back by the freeze of late March and early April. In Louisiana white Dutch clover was yielding fairly well in some locations since the rains in April. In Texas, no flows of consequence were in progress; with most reports indicating poor prospects except in some eastern parts of the State where rainfall has been heaviest. In California, early reports indicate the citrus flow has not come up to expectation because of cloudy rainy weather, but recent precipitation should improve prospects for nectar flows from dry land plants. The outlook for legume flows is unfavorable in Oklahoma because of last year's drought but is favorable in Tennessee and Kentucky if colonies can overcome the set back by the late spring freeze.

Reports from beekeepers in most northern States that depend upon southeastern and southcentral packages of bees to replace winter losses or to maintain their apiaries are to effect that the scarcity and delay in shipping dates of packages as a result of the adverse spring weather in these areas is a serious handicap in getting such newly established colonies ready for major honey flows. Also, many report that the next few weeks will be a critical period in colony development between the end of nectar flow from dandelions, fruit trees and other spring nectar sources and the start of the main flow from legumes. Food supplies will have to be maintained to attain maximum strength of colonies for the main flow and to keep strong colonies from starving.

Plant conditions are good to very good and moisture is generally plentiful from the eastern Great Plains to the Atlantic Coast. Droughty conditions prevail in the southern and western portions of the Great Plains and in parts of Georgia and Florida. Cold, cloudy weather slowed development of plants in the Northwest.

Demand for large bulk lots of honey continued active with the market firm. Supplies remaining in producers' hands were very scarce in northern States and reports indicate supplies of new crop in southern States have been moving as rapidly as extracted. Prices for large bulk lots, depending upon quality, ranged mostly 11-12 3/4¢ in California; 10-11¢ few 15¢ in the Intermountain States; and 11-15¢, few high as 16¢ in the Plains, East Central and North Central States. In Southeastern States new crop prices ranged mostly 11-13¢. Demand for crude beeswax continued good with the market firm. Most trading for sizable lots of around 100 lbs. or more was at 51¢ in cash and 53¢ in trade, f.o.b. shipping point. Smaller lots were moving at prices ranging 42-50¢. Most buyers were making no differentiation in price between colors.

INFORMATION FROM PRODUCING AREAS

CALIFORNIA POINTS: (Period last half April)

Southern California - Rainfall at Los Angeles totaled 1.11 inches; temperatures ranged 60-84 degrees and 48-57 degrees minimum.

Colonies in southern California are in normally good condition. Bees actively worked on oranges during the period except as cold or rainy weather prevented. Weather conditions have been most unfavorable for the orange flow so far and the final success will depend on future weather. General extracting of the Orange crop will begin about May 10. Colonies have a large number of bees and ample brood, and sufficient stores of honey and pollen for the most part. Many, however, ran short of stores and were fed sugar. Swarming has been

below normal. There has been a heavy movement of bees into orange areas, many of which are over-crowded. Most honey plants are on the dry side. Rains during the period came too late or were inadequate in many instances to do much good. Irrigation was prevalent in all areas. Wild honey plants have made relatively little growth. White sage and buckwheat in San Diego County will be four to six weeks earlier than usual due to the dry conditions. In addition to oranges, bees worked on some sage, wild alfalfa and other plants during the period. Some colonies, in the avocado area of the Delta, were getting a normal flow which had amounted to a full capped super.

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HONEY PRICES REPORTED DURING PERIOD COVERED BY THIS REPORT: These prices represent sales and quotations as reported by correspondent beekeepers and honey handlers. Because of the many thousands of beekeepers and handlers in the country these should be considered as representative prices and not as full and complete coverage of all transactions for any State or area:

PRODUCERS' SALES OF LARGE LOTS OF EXTRACTED HONEY TO BOTTLEERS IN 60-LB. CANS, PER POUND

STATE :	COLOR & FLORAL SOURCE	PRICE & BASIS OF SALE	STATE :	COLOR & FLORAL SOURCE	PRICE & BASIS OF SALE
CALIF. SOU.	Extra Light Amber Orange	12 - 3/4¢ del.	MICH.	White, Clover (cans returned)	15¢ del.
	Extra Light Amber Sage-Buck-wheat	11 1/2 - 10¢ "		White, Clover	16 1/2¢ "
	Extra Light Amber Alfalfa	11 1/2¢ "	WISC.	Clover-Basswood	13-14 1/2¢ "
	Extra Light Amber Mixed Flowers	10¢ "		Amber-Dark Amber Mixed Flowers	12¢ "
	Extra Light Amber Eucalyptus (1955 Crop)	10¢ "	MINN.	White, Sweetclover	14¢ del. Mpls
	Light Amber Eucalyptus (1955 Crop)	8¢ "		Light Amber, Mixed Flowers	12¢ "
NOR.	Light Amber Alfalfa	11 - 11 1/2¢ "	VT.	Clover	15¢ "
WASH.	Alfalfa-Clover	12 1/2¢ fob	TENN.	Clover	12 1/2¢ "
COLO.	White, Sweetclover	11 1/2 - 15¢ fob	FLA.	60s and drums, containers exchanged	
	Light Amber Mixed Flowers	10¢ del.		White-Light Amber, Orange mostly	12-13¢ del.
IDAHO	White, Alfalfa-Clover	12 1/2¢ fob		Amber, Palmetto, Gallberry, Orange, Mangrove, Partridge Pea, Ti-ti	13¢ "
UTAH	White, Clover	13¢ "			11-11 3/4¢ fob & del.
	Extra Light Clover	11¢ del. L.A.	LA.	White, Clover, drums 60s	11 1/2¢ fob
TEXAS	Light Amber (1954) Clover	10 1/2¢ fob		Dark, Mixed Flowers, drums 60s	12 1/2¢ "
	Dark (1954) Mixed Flowers	8 1/2¢ "			10¢ "
OKLA.	Various Flowers	11¢ del.			10 1/2¢ "
IOWA	White, Clover	12 - 15¢ "			
NEBR.	White, Clover, producers asking	16¢ "			

PRODUCER-PACKER OR PACKER SALES OF HONEY TO WHOLESALE RETAILERS & CONSUMERS

STATE :	TYPE OF HONEY, CONTAINERS, COLOR AND FLORAL SOURCE	WHOLESALE (Generally delivered)	SALES TO RETAILERS (Generally delivered)	CONSUMERS (Local sales)
EXTRACTED HONEY - 60-POUND CANS - PER POUND				
COLO.	White, Sweetclover	-	-	16 2/3¢
TEXAS	Clover	18 3/4¢	19.42¢	-
OKLA.	Various Flowers	18¢	-	-
NEBR.	White, Sweetclover	16¢	-	-
WISC.	Clover-Basswood	16 1/2 - 18 1/2¢	-	-
	Amber-Dark Amber, Mixed Flowers	15 1/2¢	-	-
ILL.	Various Flowers	15-20¢	-	-
	White & Amber, Sweetclover (to bakers)	16¢	-	-
VT.	Clover	-	-	20¢
MD.	Mixed Flowers	-	-	25¢
FLA.	Extra White Orange	22¢ del. in Md.	-	-
	White-Light Amber, Orange	17 1/2¢	19¢	22 1/2¢
	Amber, Various Flowers	14 1/3¢*	15 1/2¢	19 3/4¢

EXTRACTED HONEY - 5-LB. CONTAINERS - PER LB.

COLO.	White, Clover	-	-	20¢
UTAH	White, Clover	-	19¢	-
TEXAS	Clover	23¢	25 2/3¢	-
OKLA.	Various Flowers	18¢	18-19¢	-
N. MEX.	Blended, Mesquite, Alfalfa & Cotton	16 2/3¢	-	-
IOWA	White, Clover	-	19¢	25¢
NEBR.	White, Clover	20¢	-	-
KANS.	Extra White, Yellow & White Sweetclover	-	-	20¢
WISC.	Clover & Basswood	21¢	17-25¢ mostly	20¢
MINN.	Clover & Basswood	-	19 1/2¢	20-25¢
IND.	Light Amber, mostly Clover	-	-	21.8¢

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PRODUCT-PACKAGE-OR-PACKAGE SALES OF HONEY TO WHOLESALERS, RETAILERS & CONSUMERS

STATE :	TYPE OF HONEY, CONTAINERS, COLOR AND FLORAL SOURCE	SALES TO		
		WHOLESALETS	RETAILERS	CONSUMERS
		(Generally delivered)	(Generally delivered)	(Local sales)
EXTRACTED HONEY - 5-LB. CONTAINERS - PER LB. (CONTAINERS)				
ILL.	Various Flowers	20¢	-	-
VT.	Clover	21 2/5¢	24¢	30¢
PA.	Various Flowers	-	-	25¢
	Light Amber, Clover mixture	-	26¢	35¢
MD.	Mixed Flowers	-	-	30¢
TENN.	Clover	-	-	25¢
FLA.	White-Light Amber, Orange	18 3/4¢	20 1/5¢	25¢
	Amber, Various Flowers	17 3/4¢	16 3/5¢	22¢

EXTRACTED HONEY - 12, 2-LB. CONTAINERS				
COLO.	White, Clover	-	-	Per Jar 66¢
TEXAS	Clover	6.50	7.10	-
OKLA.	Various Flowers	5.70	6.20	-
			few 4.80	-
N.MEX.	Blended Mosquito, Alfalfa and Cotton	5.00	5.60	-
NEBR.	White, Clover	5.45	-	-
WISC.	Clover & Basswood	6.20	7.45	-
MINN.	Clover & Basswood	-	5.75	-
ILL.	White, Clover	5.70	-	-
PA.	Various Flowers	-	-	65¢
	Light Amber, Clover Mixture	-	6.75	75¢
FLA.	White-Light Amber, Orange	4.88*	5.23	55¢
	Amber Various Flowers	4.15*	4.42	48¢

EXTRACTED HONEY - 24, 1-LB. CONTAINERS				
COLO.	White, Clover	-	-	34¢
TEXAS	Clover	6.75	7.30	-
OKLA.	Various Flowers	6.00	6.40	-
			few 6.00	-
N.MEX.	Blended Mosquito, Alfalfa and Cotton	5.25	5.85	-
IOWA	White, Clover	-	5.28	30
NEBR.	White, Clover	5.75	-	-
WISC.	Clover and Basswood	6.45	5.76-7.75	-
			mostly 7.75	-
MINN.	Clover and Basswood	-	6.45	-
ILL.	White, Clover	6.40-6.48	-	-
VT.	Clover	6.15	7.25	40¢
PA.	Various Flowers	-	-	45¢
	Light Amber, Clover Mixture	-	7.20	40¢
MD.	Citrus (from Fla.)	-	6.96	45¢
VA.	Clovers and Mixed Flowers	-	7.68	40¢
TENN.	Clover	-	-	38¢
FLA.	White-Light Amber, Orange	5.38*	5.72	25-30¢
	Amber-Various Flowers	4.66*	4.90	27¢

EXTRACTED HONEY - 24, 8-OZ. JARS				
COLO.	White, Clover	-	-	21¢
TEXAS	Clover	3.85	4.20	-
OKLA.	Various Flowers	3.45	3.75	-
NEBR.	White, Clover	3.50	-	-
WISC.	Clovers and Basswood	3.75	4.50	-
PA.	Light Amber, Clover Mixture	-	4.20	23¢
FLA.	White-Light Amber, Orange	3.06*	3.52	18¢
	Amber, Various flowers	2.72*	3.15	16¢

SECTION COMB HONEY - CASES 24 SECTIONS				Per Section
COLO.	White, Clover	-	-	39¢
MINN.	Clover and Basswood, 12 oz. min.	-	8.40	50¢
PA.	Clover	-	9.00	50¢
MD.	Mixed Flowers, ordinary quality	-	-	17-25¢
VA.	Light, Mixed Flowers	-	8.00	45¢
TENN.	Clover, 14-oz.	-	-	7.50 per case

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PRODUCER-PACKER OR PACKER SALES OF HONEY TO WHOLESALERS, RETAILERS & CONSUMERS				
STATE:	TYPE OF HONEY, CONTAINERS, COLOR AND	WHOLESALE	SALES TO -	
	NET TOTAL SOURCE 1/	(Generally delivered):	RETAILERS (Generally delivered):	CONSUMERS (Local sales)
WRAPPED CUT COMB				
VT.	Clover, 24/3-oz. sections	3.00	4.00	25¢ each
CHUNK (BULK COMB) HONEY				
ILL.	White, Sweetclover, 12/12-oz. jars	3.20	-	-
	" " 6/2½-lb. jars	4.55	-	-
VA.	Clover, 2½-lb. jars	-	1.35	-
TENN.	Clover, 5-lb. jars	-	-	1.50
FLA.	Citrus	7.00 per super	-	-
	of 10 frames del. Md.	-	-	-
CREAMED HONEY				
COLO.	White, Clover	-	-	33¢

1/ State of origin indicates State where packed, not necessarily where produced. The term "Clover" includes most legumes such as White Dutch Clover, Hubam Clover, Yellow and White Sweetclover and occasionally such legumes as alfalfa and Vetch mixed with other Clovers. * F.o.b. shipping point.

Note: F.o.b. as used in foregoing means f.o.b. shipping point. Delivered means delivered to buyers packing plant or receiving point.

INFORMATION FROM PRODUCING AREASCALIFORNIA POINTS: (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Central California - Colony condition varies. Most colonies are in good to excellent condition though some are below normal in bees, brood, and honey stores. Pollen supplies have been good but honey supplies were running low in some instances. Colony development is mostly somewhat later than usual. Swarming had been light thus far. Many colonies had been moved to orange groves and some to sage or other locations. Honey plant condition varies. Annual and brush plants have suffered from recent drought conditions but will be helped by rains which fell during this period. Bees worked on eucalyptus, locust, willow, oranges, manzanita, wild lilac, fiddleneck, mustard, and other plants.

Northern California - Colonies continued in good condition for the most part. Honey stores were light in some cases, and some feeding had been necessary. Swarming has started in commercial apiaries though it has been retarded by cold rainy weather. Some beekeepers are making large increases, while others are making little or none. The rains which fell during the period were beneficial to wild plants. They had been suffering because of the lack of rain and drying winds during March. During the period bees worked on manzanita, mustard, wild radish, filaree, and other wild plants. High manzanita had only a light bloom.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST: (Period last half April)

Oregon - Weather continued abnormally cold and wet during this period and colonies of bees and plants are developing late. April has been the wettest on record at Portland. Bees are being moved into orchards about 3 to 4 weeks later than usual for pollination. Quite heavy winter and spring losses of bees

are reported. Much feeding is still being done, but wet soggy ground is interfering with this operation in yards distant from good roads. Many small holdings of bees are starving. Irrigation water supplies have been improved by the recent precipitation. Legumes are in good condition.

Washington - Cold, cloudy, rainy weather prevailed west of the Cascades and held bees fairly inactive. Some feeding has been necessary. Dandelions were out. The temperature at Seattle during April was the coldest on record since 1929. Weather conditions were similar in the Yakima Valley. Temperatures ranged mostly from high twenties to low fifties. Many hives in fruit orchards in the Lower Valley for pollination purposes have growers worried because of lack of bee activity. Colonies were about holding their own, using up stores about as fast as collected from peaches, pears, cherries and dandelions. Some feeding was necessary in colonies which have not been moved to orchards in later districts. Apple blossoms in the later districts are still at least two weeks away. The fairly heavy additional snow fall in the mountains coupled with good rains in the Valleys has assured plenty of irrigation water this coming summer.

INTERMOUNTAIN STATES: (Period April 10-24)

Colorado - Weather was cold throughout most of this period, with bees able to fly only on an occasional day. Much feeding has been or will be necessary, and heavy losses from starvation have occurred in some yards. Natural pollen has been available but bees could secure little. Dandelions were just starting to open, whereas a year ago they were in full bloom at this time. Peach trees are normally in bloom by May 10 on the western slope, but will be later this year as on April 22 the buds were hardly swollen. Moisture conditions

- continued -

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are normal in the Grand Junction area. Farmers in the San Luis Valley expect to plow under much clover due to winter killing. In the Arkansas River Valley the severe drought continued and is hurting colony build up. Beekeepers are hauling water to many out-yards. Alfalfa has not started to grow. Honey is well cleaned up in all areas of the State, and the market is in good condition.

Idaho - Weather during this period was cool and cloudy, with considerable rain. This has kept bees from flying and has conserved stores. Condition of colonies varies from normal to below normal, and winter losses have not been heavy, although there are occasional reports of heavy losses. Most beekeepers were unpacking their bees, but some prefer to leave them covered until more settled warm weather arrives. Indications are that most packages of bees will be shipped in than usual, and some beekeepers are going after them with trucks. Practically all of the old crop honey is cleaned up. Local demand has been fair. The beeswax market was strengthening with an improved demand.

Montana - Package bees are being trucked into the State from California and those that winter bees have been receiving queens during this period. Bees have wintered very well in this area, although some are short of stores. Considerable moisture was received during this period. Pollen was being gathered by bees from early willow blossoms.

Utah - There was one week of good weather (April 10 to 16) when bees could be examined. Weather has been cold and windy since. On the morning of April 26 a temperature drop from 50 degrees to 30 degrees occurred in one hour, and was followed by a 2 inch snow storm. Bees are still in winter pack.

Nevada - Weather in western and northern sections of the State continued to be cold. Beeyard and inspection work has been held up, and early flowers such as peach and dandelion are much behind in blooming. If weather does not improve soon, heavy bee losses can be expected.

SOUTHWESTERN STATES: (Period April 11 - 25)

Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas - Light honey flows were in progress from mesquite and clover. Beekeepers were making plans to move colonies away from cotton fields to avoid poisoning. Northern beekeepers were moving "nucs" north. Weather continued dry.

East and Southeast Texas - In Brazos County, and surrounding territory weather was generally warm with abundant rainfall, and the condition of plants and bees has greatly improved. Youpon which escaped the March frost had limited bloom, which yielded some nectar and pollen. More recently the bees were gathering considerable nectar and pollen from willows and ground flowers so that feeding operations could be discontinued, and colonies have built up well. Some were preparing to swarm. In Mata Gorda County the condition of clovers improved somewhat after recent showers, but as the period closed they were again suffering for moisture. The honey flow has been fair in some locations and a failure, to date, in others.

Bad weather and a slow flow have given bees a real swarming fever. In Bee County in the Coastal Bend area there has been no recent rain. Some apiaries were making a living, others not. Truckloads of bees and cattle were being moved to more favorable locations.

Southwest, Texas - In Erio County, and adjacent territory, many colonies of bees are near starvation. No honey has been produced in this area. In Guadalupe County dry weather continued and rain is badly needed. There was no clover or horsemint in bloom. Mesquite has some blossoms, but bees were not working them.

Northeast Texas - In Dallas County a rain of slightly more than 2 inches fell at the start of this period, and while the rainfall is still below average so far this year, there is a very good supply of moisture in the ground. With temperatures going to the upper 90's on several days, everything is growing lush. Ground flowers are appearing in larger numbers every week and bees are again getting a good supply of pollen, which was cut off by the freezes. Brood-rearing is progressing rapidly and honey stores are vanishing even faster with the result many colonies are right on the danger point of starvation. Much feeding was being done. Bees were gathering a little nectar from black medic, which is the first time beekeepers in this area have observed bees working this plant. The first vetch blossoms came out at the close of the period, and while the acreage is limited in this black-land area, it is hoped that better than daily needs will be obtained by apiaries located near such fields. Vetch is not a heavy producer of nectar in this black, heavy soil.

Oklahoma - Weather was dry, hot, and windy with dust storms prevailing during this period. The ground was again becoming dry, with cracks appearing in the surface in some areas. Clovers appear very scarce over many areas of the State because the drought last fall kept plants from coming up. Alfalfa was making growth where available. Because of the poor clover stands most reports indicate the outlook for a surplus honey crop this coming year is poor. Bees were working willows, ground flowers, walnuts, oaks and pecans for either pollen or nectar, and colonies were starting to build up rapidly.

New Mexico - In the Mesilla Valley pollen was coming in from fruit bloom, wild mustard and other wild flowers. Colonies of bees in some yards are very strong, while in others they are weak. No moisture was received during this period.

PLAINS STATES: (Period April 11 - 25)

Iowa - Rainfall was fairly heavy over most of the State during this period and temperatures averaged above normal. Moisture conditions are good except in localized areas where the rains missed, and in these areas the top soil is getting a little dry. The weather has been favorable for colonies of bees to recover very well from virtual starvation. Colony build-up has been rapid.

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However, many beekeepers were still feeding bees, and anticipate the need of considerable feeding between the end of early flows from fruit trees and dandelions and the start of clover blossoms. Winter losses have been minimized by the favorable weather during this period, but are variable. Losses vary from very little to 12 percent in some yards with a few areas reporting heavy losses of from 50 to 80 percent. The delay in getting package bees will make it difficult to replace losses or for increasing holdings. Fruit bloom has about ended in the southern part of the State but was just attaining full bloom in the northern part. Very little honey remains in producers' hands. The wax market continued strong.

Nebraska - A good rain fell at the close of the period which was needed as the soil was becoming very dry. Clovers appear to be in good condition, although acreage which will be left to bloom is expected to be scarce in some localities. Colonies of bees have been building up rapidly, with several good days on fruit and dandelion bloom. However, considerable feeding has been in progress in some sections. Also many colonies are still in a weakened condition where honey stores were short. Winter losses were generally light where bees were wintered outside. Cellar-wintered bees suffered a higher loss, due to a shortage of stores and the extreme weather conditions which prevailed a few weeks ago. Some package bees have been installed under favorable weather conditions, except for a few windy days which caused considerable drifting. Beekeepers have been having difficulty in securing packages on scheduled shipping dates because of the late March freeze in southern areas that set the bees and bloom back.

Kansas - A week of above normal temperatures following a rain moved plant growth into a profusion of bloom. Plum, cherry, pear, apple, redbud and many other plants bloomed within the week, dandelions included. However, soil conditions are becoming dry and moisture will be needed with the next month. Colonies have expanded rapidly in broodrearing because of the favorable temperatures and available food. In many cases feeding will be necessary during May because of low stores, a shortage of flowers, and the relatively dry soil condition. Sweetclover plants are making good progress. Alfalfa is nearly ready for the 1st cutting.

Missouri - A little rain fell during this period, but not enough to relieve the drouth. Colonies have been building up rapidly. More colonies were rented for apple pollination than ever before attributed to the use of new stronger insecticides which have killed natural pollinating insects. Rental fees for colonies ranged from \$2.50 to \$5.00 per colony.

EAST CENTRAL AND NORTH CENTRAL STATES:
(Period Apr. 12 - 26)

Michigan - Spring weather conditions so far have been the best in a number of years for colony build-up and establishing package bees with the season about 10 days advanced. Soft fruit trees, such as sweet cherries, were beginning to bloom in southern and central areas,

with sour cherries and early apples about ready to open. Some bees have been moved into orchards for pollination. Willow was opening on the Upper Peninsula. Bees in some areas were about making a living, in others feeding was necessary. Winter losses are reported from light to heavy, and very heavy. In yards where losses were heavy, remaining colonies are weak. Most blame the variable losses to whether plenty of feed was left last fall or to trusting to a fall flow to fill hives. There is ample moisture at the present time and plant conditions are good. However, in the Thumb Section white clover plants are not appearing, attributed to the fact that they probably burned out in last summer's drouth. Practically no honey remains in producers' hands. Handlers of package bees report a normal demand, but a delay in receipts because of the adverse weather in southern package producing areas.

Wisconsin - Good rains fell during this period and moisture and clover conditions are excellent. Bees came through the winter in variable condition. Where stores were ample, apparently losses were light, but in many instances stores were inadequate and heavy losses from starvation occurred. Reports from a number of sections indicate losses of 30 to 50 percent. Orders for package bees have been heavier than usual to replace losses, and also for increases because of the favorable condition of legume plants. Bees were working on soft maple, elm, willows and other trees, mostly for pollen. Fruit trees and dandelions will soon be in bloom. There has been considerable inquiry for bees for pollination purposes in fruit orchards and in cranberry bogs.

Minnesota - Weather conditions were favorable during this period for bees to gather pollen and for the spring build-up of colonies. Windy weather interfered to some extent a few days. Moisture conditions are fairly good and the condition of clovers is good. Sweetclover is scarce in some localities, but on the other hand white Dutch clover is plentiful. Winter losses are variable. Heavy losses from starvation occurred in both commercial and non-commercial apiaries in some sections of the State. On the other hand, where stores were adequate bees came through the winter with very light losses.

Ohio - Above normal temperatures prevailed. Conditions were about normal with respect to moisture and clover plants. Bees were in variable condition. Considerable starvation has occurred in some yards, while in others where stores were ample bees came through the winter with light losses. Considerable feeding has been done and will be necessary before clovers bloom. Colony build-up has been excellent in central and southern areas of the State with a few reports of swarming fever, but slow in the northeastern section. Fruit and dandelion trees were in full bloom in central and southern areas and about ready to bloom in northern areas. Supplies of honey remaining in producers' hands are very small.

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Indiana - Moisture conditions are much improved. All parts of the State have about a normal supply of soil moisture, and ground water levels are generally up to normal or above. Some of the rivers, notably the Ohio, have reached the highest crests in seven years. Many beekeepers are experiencing difficulty in getting into their outyards with trucks because of the soft ground caused by excessive and continuous rains. Orchard pollination has been hindered by the soft ground in the orchards. Honey plants in general look very promising although clover stands are irregular in some areas. In such areas some stands are good but others failed and are being plowed under. Dandelion bloom was heavy and has aided materially in supplying the deficiency of stores that existed in many areas. Colonies with an ample supply of stores are advancing too rapidly and in some cases are now at swarming strength. Honey stocks in beekeepers' hands are low. Demand was light with prices steady.

Illinois - Rains and warm weather have been helpful for all honey plants. Pastures are as far advanced as the middle of May and orchards have bloomed 10 days earlier than usual. Winter losses of colonies of bees have been variable ranging from light in some yards to heavy in others. Some beekeepers report losses as high as 50 percent. The feeding of pollen supplement has been heavier than for several years. Dandelions were out in full bloom and yielded well. Considerable feeding will be required for many colonies between the end of the dandelion and fruit bloom and the start of the clover flow. Honey has been fairly well cleaned up over the State. Buyers were actively in search of odd lots.

NORTHEASTERN STATES: (Period Apr. 13-Apr. 27)

New York - Winter losses are variable, but are above average. Reports from the Hudson Valley, central and western New York indicate losses of 33 to 50 percent in many yards. In a few instances whole apiaries have starved. Many of the surviving colonies are weak. In yards where ample stores were left with the bees losses, however, were not excessive. Much more feeding has been done than usual this spring. In Jefferson County, bees wintered in some cellars averaged 6 percent loss. A number of flowers were in bloom during this period, but bees were barely holding their own. Flowers in bloom included red maple, early garden flowers, crocus, bloodroot, peach, cherry, flowering quince, crab apple, pear, marigold, and dandelion. Apple trees were not yet in bloom, but are expected to bloom shortly after May 1. Demand for honey was moderate at steady prices. Most beekeepers are sold out.

Vermont - Weather during this period was cold and rainy most of the time, with only occasional dry suitable for flying. As a result bees are not gathering much nectar so that some feeding has had to be done. Clovers appear to be in good condition. Sales of honey continued fair to good, with some beekeepers sold out. Only a few of the larger beekeepers have any honey for sale.

Pennsylvania - Honey plants are in excellent condition. Wet weather has slowed bee activity. When weather permitted, a good honey flow occurred from fruit blossoms, dandelion, cress, elder, maple, and willow. Winter losses have been heavy in many yards.

EAST CENTRAL AND NORTH CENTRAL STATES:
(Period Apr. 13 - 27)

Maryland - Wet weather during this period prevented bees from gathering much nectar from fruit bloom. There was a short period of warm weather during the apple bloom, which peaked during this period, so that pollination should be good. Broodrearing has been slowed down by the wet weather, but some strong colonies have reached swarming strength. Bees in the Blue Ridge Section were working domestic shrubs, wild cherry, dandelions, and chickweed in addition to fruit bloom. In the vicinity of Washington, D. C., there will be few flowers for bees to work on until the main flow begins from tulip poplar and locust. Locust is not expected to bloom heavily, however, because of the very heavy bloom last year. Mustard was still in bloom, and black gum will bloom soon, but they will not provide bees with a living. Moisture and plant conditions are generally good. The water table is still low in western Maryland. Most beekeepers are sold out of 1954 crop honey.

Virginia - In Loudon County, colonies of bees have built up well even though many were short on stores. Weather much of the time has been unfavorable and many colonies are still short on reserve stores. Bees were taken out of apple orchards on April 22.

Kentucky - In northern areas the first part of this period was ideal for honey and pollen gathering. Dandelions provided a splendid source of honey and pollen. The last few days of the period were cool and rainy, and quite windy. There has been an excess of 2.21 inches precipitation so far this season, making prospects excellent for a honey crop. Sweetclover and white Dutch clover are abundant. Bees have not yet reached swarming strength.

Tennessee - Weather was wet and cold much of this period. White Dutch clover and crimson clover have started to bloom, and bees were working them when it was not raining. These plants are in good condition and give promise of a good flow, if weather conditions will permit bee flights. Practically no old crop honey remains in producers' hands.

SOUTHEASTERN STATES: (Period Apr. 12 - 26)

Georgia - Beekeeping conditions are still critical in this State. Most colonies are not making any honey and considerable feeding has been necessary throughout the State. It is still questionable if south Georgia will make any honey, due to lack of flowers even to the extent of making pollen. Weather conditions are still dry in some parts of South Georgia, with fairly good recent rains in north Georgia. Prospects for honey flows in north Georgia

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Georgia - (Continued) are still mostly a question mark. A few package bees and queens have been shipped north, but the cold spell in late March and early April has set these operations back.

Florida - In the Tampa Bay area gallberry has been yielding fairly well, although no large gains have been made so far. Palmetto flow started about April 20, with moisture very deficient. In Polk County many hives swarmed in the orange flow, and more are swarming in the early stages of the scrub palmetto. However, the prospects for a palmetto honey flow are very good, if rain will hold off. In Lake County bees were just starting to work on gallberry. In the Apalachicola Section white tupelo started blooming April 14 - and only about one-half of a normal crop has been produced. Ti-ti and mixed flowers in north Florida produced only about 20 percent of a normal crop. Practically all ti-ti and early mixed flower honey has been gathered and sold.

Mississippi - The weather at the close of March was worst in history as affecting bee-keeping. All blooms were killed and trees were a sorry sight for weeks. Moisture is now ample. Rains in some areas were as much as 13 inches in 24 hours causing floods. Bees did not build up normally and northern beekeepers are becoming alarmed because of delays in getting their package bees. Many orders

are being declined by shippers because of a shortage of bees. Poor conditions last fall, due to drought, prevented bees from brooding up, so even if there were fair clusters at beginning of winter, the majority were old bees that died off fast in the spring. Stores of both honey and pollen become depleted early in many yards and beekeepers who were not alert lost heavily in colonies from starvation. Trucks from the north are roaming the South in search of bees. Orders are heavy for both bees and queens. Some who had queen orders booked for use in "divides", changed their orders to package bees with queens because their colonies did not build up as usual. Crimson and white Dutch clovers and other nectar bearing legumes are just now coming into good bloom, after having been killed back. Considerable honey is being stored by colonies having any bees to speak of, but most colonies are still below normal in strength for this date.

Louisiana - Conditions have greatly improved for a honey crop, with a good flow in progress during this period from white Dutch clover. Scale colonies at Baton Rouge were making daily gains of 3 to 6 pounds. At the close of the period, the ground was beginning to dry out after heavy rains at the beginning of the period. Package- and queen-shippers report a good demand, especially for queens. Only a moderate amount of package bees are being shipped.

SUMMARY OF 1954 HONEY PRICE SUPPORT OPERATIONS -By Commodity Stabilization Service, Sugar Division
Wage, Price, and Commodity Programs Branch -5-3-55.

As of April 15, 1955						
STATE	Loans Made		Loans	Purchases		Estimated Deliveries to CCC Pounds
	No.	Pounds	Outstanding Pounds	Agreements No.	Pounds	
Alabama	1	6,120	6,120	-	-	6,120
Arizona	13	250,654	-	-	-	-
California	1	105,600	-	-	-	-
Colorado	1	13,560	-	-	-	-
Florida	8	139,150	-	1	625,000	-
Georgia	15	161,656	-	-	-	-
Idaho	1	132,440	-	-	-	-
Iowa	6	87,731	-	-	-	-
Louisiana	4	12,762	992	-	-	992
Minnesota	1	192,500	-	-	-	-
Nebraska	-	-	-	4	76,050	-
New Mexico	3	22,055	-	-	-	-
Oklahoma	1	19,250	-	-	-	-
South Carolina	1	25,410	9,680	-	-	-
South Dakota	4	70,345	-	-	-	-
Texas	12	87,010	-	1	50,000	-
Utah	-	-	-	1	4,200	-
Washington	3	97,625	-	-	-	-
Wyoming	1	41,800	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	76	1,465,668	16,792	7	755,250	7,112
<u>Totals as of Same Period</u>						
1953 Program	128	3,123,982	-	27	1,022,468	604,798
1952 Program	344	9,289,620	-	134	5,035,797	7,086,946

HONEY DIVERSION PAYMENTS PROGRAM /1 - (1954 Marketing Season)

Quantities on Approved Applications, in Pounds, through April 30 - - 93,531

/1 Furnished by Specialty Crops Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS. Includes modifications of previous operations.
- continued -

SEMI-MONTHLY HONEY REPORT - VOL. XXXIX - NO. 9TELEGRAPHIC REPORTS FROM IMPORTANT MARKETS

(Arrivals include receipts during preceding two weeks. Unless otherwise shown prices represent sales or current quotations by brokers, local bottlers, or other receivers to wholesalers and large retailers for small containers, and to bakers, confectioners, or other large users for 60-lb. containers or larger containers. Market condition comments represent the opinion of the trade and are for the last half of April. All quotations are extracted unless otherwise shown. 60-lb. cans are on a pound basis and smaller units of extracted and other types of honey are on per case basis unless otherwise shown. Beeswax prices are per pound.)

BOSTON: Arrivals - 28,800 lbs. domestic, Offerings light. Demand dull to fair, market about steady.

White Clover	
6, 5-lb. jars	6.40
12, 2-lb. jars	6.25
24, 1-lb. jars	6.00-6.70
12, 1-lb. jars	3.38
12, 1-lb. servers	4.90
24, 12-oz. jars	5.60
24, 8-oz. jars	3.80-3.95
36, 4-oz. jars	3.60
CREAMED, 12, 12-oz. cups	2.83

CHICAGO: Arrivals - 172,800 lbs. domestic. Demand good, market steady.

60-lb. tins, MIDWESTERN, per lb.	
White Clover, one lot	.18- .18 $\frac{1}{2}$
Light Amber	.18- .19 $\frac{1}{2}$
some	.17 $\frac{1}{2}$
in granulated form 1¢ less	
White Clover	
Cartons, 12, 5-lb. tins	13.70
12, 1-lb. jars	3.25
24, 1-lb. (self-service) jars	6.45
24, 12-oz.	5.25
24, 8-oz. (self-service) jars	3.95
36, 4-oz.	3.18
CREAMED 12, 12-oz.	2.75

DENVER: Supplies very light. Demand moderate, market steady.

Sweetclover, COLORADO	
12, 28-oz. jars	5.35-5.55
12, 20-oz. jars	4.75-5.00
12, 8-oz. jars	2.40-2.60
24, 8-oz. jars	4.35-4.60
24, 16-oz. jars	6.65-7.00
12, 32-oz. jars	6.45-6.75
12, 5-lb. tins	12.00-12.85
6, 5-lb. glass	6.90-7.10
CREAMED, 24, 12-oz. cups	7.10-7.25
12, 12-oz. glass	3.00-3.25

DETROIT: Arrivals - 21,980 lbs. domestic. Demand fair, market about steady.

Mixed Flowers, mostly White Clover	
6, 5-lb.	6.00-6.40
12, 2-lb.	5.65
24, 1-lb.	5.50-5.75
24, 8-oz.	3.15-3.25

KANSAS CITY: Arrivals - none. Supplies very scarce. Too few sales to establish market.

PITTSBURGH: Arrivals - by truck 12,390 lbs. domestic. Demand slow, market steady.

White Clover and Light Amber	
24, 1-lb. jars	6.70
24, 8-oz. jars	3.95
24, 1-lb. server mugs	4.90
CREAMED, 24, 1-lb. jars	6.70

LOS ANGELES: Market steady.

Prices to retailers -	
White (or better) Orange, Sage, Clover	
6, 5-lb. tin or glass	6.00-6.60
12, 32-oz. jars	6.35-6.80
12, 24-oz. jars	5.20
12, 16-oz. jars	3.35-3.55
12, 12-oz. jars	2.61-2.85
24, 8-oz. jars	3.80-4.04
Light Amber, Blended Flavors	
12, 2-lb. tins	5.20
24, 1-lb. jars	5.40
Light Amber, Mixed Flowers	
6, 5-lb. tins	5.00-5.25
Extra Light Amber, Alfalfa	
12, 5-lb. tins	10.20
Extra Light Amber, Blended Flavors	
12, 32-oz. jars	5.60
12, 16-oz. jars	2.95
24, 8-oz. jars	3.45
White (or better) assorted Orange, Sage, Clover	
24, 8-oz. jars	4.12-4.14
White (or better) Buckwheat, Orange, Clover, Sage	
12, 8-oz. jars	2.04
White, Orange-Clover	
12, 1-lb. glass servers	4.50-4.75
CREAMED, White (or better) Orange, Clover	
12, 12-oz. cups	2.75-2.93
24, 12-oz. cups	5.85
CHUNK, COMB pack, White, Sage, Clover	
12, 16-oz. jars	5.15
12, 8-oz. jars	2.90
COMB White, Clover	
12, 12-oz. sections	4.80
Honey & Butter - Plain and Cinnamon	
12, 6-oz. cups	3.15
Jellied Honey - Clover and Orange	
12, 10-oz. jars	2.85
<u>BEESWAX:</u> Arrivals - by truck 4,700 lbs. domestic. Supplies very light. Demand good, market slightly weaker. Purchases by local receivers delivered Los Angeles -	
cash mostly	.50
trade	.52

PHILADELPHIA: Arrivals - 3,300 lbs. domestic.

Supplies very light. Market dull but steady.	
GUATEMALA, Light Clover	
60-lb. tins	.17
Domestic, Blended Sweet- and White Clover	
24, 1-lb. jars	6.70
24, 8-oz. jars	3.95
12, 1-lb. jars	3.38
36, 4-oz. jars	3.60
CREAMED, 12, 12-oz. jars	2.83

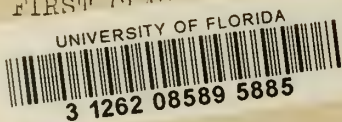
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<u>NEW YORK CITY:</u> Arrivals - by boat - 220 drs. Cuba; 40 drs. Mexico; 23 drs. Dominican Republic; 160 drs. Guatemala; 15 cs. Italy. Supplies light. Demand moderate, market firm. Some dealers have nothing to offer to outside trade. Prices include nominal quotations and some previous sales.		<u>SAN FRANCISCO:</u> Arrivals - none. Domestic Light Amber (or better) Orange, Clover, Sage, Thistle, and some blended Flowers -	
IMPORTED ex dock New York City, duty paid		24, 8-oz. jars	3.05-3.50
CUBA, drums	.13 $\frac{1}{2}$ - .14 $\frac{1}{2}$	24, 12-oz. jars	4.70-5.40
MEXICO, drums	.14 $\frac{1}{2}$ - .15 $\frac{1}{2}$	24, 12-oz. jars Sage with	
PUERTO RICO, tins	.14 $\frac{1}{2}$ - .15 $\frac{1}{2}$	cut comb	7.50
GUATEMALA, drums	.14 - .15	12, 8-oz. jars	1.34
MIDWESTERN and INTERMOUNTAIN, 60s	.15 $\frac{1}{2}$ - .16	12, 12-oz. jars	1.88
Bakers Blend, Mixed Flowers	.16 $\frac{1}{2}$ - .17 $\frac{1}{2}$	12, 12-oz. jars Sage, with	
Clover	.16 $\frac{1}{2}$ - .17 $\frac{1}{2}$	cut comb	3.00
FLORIDA, Orange, drums	.16 $\frac{1}{2}$ - .17 $\frac{1}{2}$	12, 1-lb. jars	2.40-3.04
IMPORTS, 12, 8-oz. jars	1.85 - 2.95	12, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. jars	3.20-3.53
12, 1-lb. jars	2.95 - 3.35	12, 2-lb. jars	4.75-5.64
Domestic, Light Amber Mixed Flowers	3.35 - 5.80	12, 5-lb. cans	8.45-9.24
24, 8-oz. jars	5.80 - 6.20		
24, 1-lb. jars	2.90 - 3.45	<u>SEATTLE:</u> Arrivals - 79,697 lbs. Market firm	
12, 1-lb. jars	5.60 - 6.20	to slightly stronger.	
24, 1-lb. tins	6.20 - 3.85	Sweetclover, Alfalfa, Light Amber	
Domestic, Orange-Clover	3.85 - 3.95	12, 5-lb. tins	11.00-11.80
24, 8-oz. jars	3.95 - 3.45	12, 2-lb. jars	5.80- 6.40
12, 1-lb. jars	3.45 - 6.45	24, 1-lb. jars	6.50- 6.80
12, 2-lb. jars	6.45 - 6.60	24, 12-oz. jars	5.50
24, 1-lb. tins	6.60 - 6.90	12, 24-oz. jars	5.20
<u>BEE SWAX:</u> Arrivals - by boat - 482 bags Cuba; 196 bags Dominican Republic; 90 pks. & 104 blocks Eritrea; 89 bags Guatemala; 122 bags Mexico; 200 bags Chile; 283 blocks Fr. Somaliland; 17 bags Haiti; 55 bls. & 398 bgs. Portuguese West Africa. Offerings light. Wide range prices. Sales and nominal quotations f.o.b. dock -		24, 8-oz. jars	4.00
AFRICA	.60- .64	CREAMED 24, 1-lb. cups	6.50
CENTRAL AMERICA and WEST INDIES	.64- .68	24, 14-oz.	5.65
WEST INDIES, Darker	.60- .64	24, 12-oz.	5.50
SOUTH AMERICA	.65- .70	24, 10-oz.	4.80
		24, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz.	3.15
<u>PORTLAND:</u> Arrivals - 14,000 lbs. Supplies light. Demand good, market firm.		<u>MINNEAPOLIS:</u> Arrivals - by truck, 60-lb. cans	
Light Amber, Sweetclover-Alfalfa		Minn. White Sweetclover 150; Minn. Light	
12, 5-lb. tins	10.80-11.70	Amber 90. Demand for small containers good,	
12, 24-oz. jars	4.80- 5.20	large containers slow; market steady to firm.	
12, 2-lb. jars	5.60- 5.80	Price to jobbers -	
24, 12-oz. jars	5.30- 5.50	U. S. Fancy Blended honey -	
24, 16-oz. jars	6.10 - 3.95	24, 8-oz. jars	3.60
24, 8-oz. jars	4.00 - 1.65	12, 1-lb. jars	3.10
Bulk 5 gal. cans Light Amber	.16 $\frac{1}{2}$ - .17	12, 2-lb. jars	5.85
Dark	.14 - .15	6, 3-lb. jars	4.10
CREAMED, 24, 10-oz. jars	4.80 - 6.50	6, 5-lb. jars	5.80
24, 1-lb. jars	6.50 - 4.20	24, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. tumblers	4.20
COMB, no supplies		12, 14-oz. tumblers	3.75
<u>BEE SWAX:</u> Supplies light. Demand good, market steady.		12, 11-oz. glass mugs	3.35
Dealers paying -(cash or trade)	.47	CREAMED 12, 11-oz. glass mugs	3.55
		60-lb. cans, per lb.	.19 $\frac{1}{2}$
		White Sweetclover	
		Light Amber	.17 $\frac{1}{2}$
<u>ST. LOUIS:</u> Market steady.		<u>CINCINNATI:</u> Arrivals - 7,880 lbs. domestic.	
60-lb. tins COLORADO and NORTHERN		Demand moderate, market steady.	
White Clover	.17	12, 5-lb. jars few	12.50
Light Amber	.16	24, 1-lb. jars	6.70
Cases, mostly White Clover		12, 1-lb. jars	2.95-3.38
6, 5-lb. jars	5.70- 6.25	24, 8-oz. jars	3.95
tins	6.15 - 6.10		
12, 2-lb. jars	6.10- 6.25		
24, 1-lb. jars	5.65- 6.70		
mostly	6.25- 6.70		
Honey Spread, 24, 12-oz. jars	5.60 - 3.40		
24, 8-oz. jars	3.95 - 3.80		
mostly	3.80- 3.95		
CREAMED, 12, 12-oz. packages	2.83 - 3.38		
12, 1-lb. packages	3.38 - 3.38		

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service
Washington 25, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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